

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Friday, March 26, 1993
Room BC-110, 14:00

Present: T. Bui (Chair), E. Loo (recording secretary), P. Shizgal, C. Suen, T. Sankar, K. Thulasiraman, A. Williams

Absent: S. Chowdhury, A. Homzy, C. Nero, A. Zaidi

Regrets: P. Bird, U. De Brentani, A.B. Ibrahim, P. Lightbown, K. Lipke, D. Markiewicz

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved by the Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes for the meeting of February 19 has been approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

Chair noted that «The proposal for the restructuring of the Office of Research Services of Concordia University» was discussed at the last two meetings of SCAPP and SCAPP has decided to send this document to Faculty Councils for input. The Faculty Council of Arts and Science has discussed the document and other Faculty Councils are in the process of doing so, hopefully SCAPP will soon receive feed back from them.

Dr. Sankar informed the committee that the Faculty Council of Engineering and Computer Science will be discussing the document, he is not a member of the Faculty Council, but he has informed the chair of the council that if they need further information, he will be available to discuss the document.

3. Business arising from Minutes

Questions were asked about the hiring for the restructuring of ORS, whether they have to wait until the process has gone through the system, what are the remaining stages and where does it go?

Chair noted when the document comes back to SCAPP, it will be presented to Senate and once it has been approved by Senate, the budget committee will make the fund available. The 1993-1994 provisional budget provides two positions, one for the replacement of Ms. Williams, and he is hoping to find a replacement by June 1.

Ms. Williams informed committee members that there are some minor changes to the document entitled «Proposal for the Restructuring of the Office of Research Services of Concordia University». A revised copy will be sent to members of the SRC.

In answering another question, the Chair informs the Committee that the second meeting for the Task Force on the Enhancement of University-wide Research Support, Services and Facilities has not been set out yet.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair noted he has nothing to report. The Consultative Committee for the search of the new Director of Research Services will be discussed in item 7 (a) of the Agenda. Dr. Proppe will come over to the meeting to discuss the 1993-1994 Provisional Budget.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

Ms. Williams informed the Committee of the following

- 1) NSERC results are out, this year Concordia University has received ten conditional grants, five from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and five from the Faculty of Art & Science. To date, there is an increase of 1.5% in operating grants and a decrease of 7% in equipment grants over the previous year.
- 2) Concordia submitted three applications for the NSERC International Fellowships competitions combined with NATO Fellowships, two have been awarded one within the Department of Computer Science, supervisor Dr. Ching Suen and the other within the Department of Physics, supervisor Dr. David Cheeke.
- 3) The first meeting of the BELUGA project was recently held. They have a consultative committee composed of representatives of the four organisations: MRC, SSHRC, NSERC and FCAR who will be making the final decisions. The committee is presently evaluating the best hardware and a survey on microcomputers is also underway.

Dr. Shizgal informed Ms. Williams that Arts and Science Computing Resources Committee did a survey in 1991, Dr. Charles White would have the result. If Dr. White does not have the information, he will provide a copy.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

Dr. Sankar commented that in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, most of the personal computers are IBM.

6. Question Period

Dr. Suen asked about the duration of the International fellowships.

Ms. Williams informed Dr. Suen that it is one year and renewable, two years at the most and the maximum amount is \$29,000 per annum.

7. a) Cumulative Profile of the Director of Research Services

The Chair informed the committee that a Consultative Committee for the search of Director of Research Services has been established, composing of one member from each faculty: Vishwanath Baba from Commerce, Kathryn Lipke from Fine Arts, Lisa Serbin from Arts & Science, Ted Stathopoulos from Engineering and Computer Science, Georgios Vatisstas from School of Graduate Studies and Audrey Williams from Office of Research Services. There has been one meeting so far to define the criteria, profile for this position and the deadline date for submitting applications is April 2.

Dr. Sankar remarked that the document has been well drafted, however he suggested that:

- (i) though it is a supporting position, it is essential that the person should become aware of the document on Enhancement of Research during the interview, to bring forward to the person about the policies and procedures and ask him/her if he/she will be able to put into force and to achieve what has been set out.
- (ii) In addition, under **Professional Experience**, The Director will be expected to have the ability to oversee the operation of the Office and have efficiency in meeting the specific needs of the faculties of the University.

Dr. Sankar suggested that this document could be used as a job description, a document to be accepted as terms of reference.

b) Faculty of Commerce and Administration Research Policy and Guidelines

Chair asked the committee if they have any comments on this document. Committee members are of the opinion that this is a faculty document and is their decision for distributing internal funds.

7. c) 1993-1994 Provisional Operating Budget

Dr. Proppe gave a brief overview of the document and what are the changes made to the budget. He informed committee that the main change in the budget process itself is that they have tried to look at recommendations coming from all sectors. They have tried to decentralise the budget process, to look at the funding information, identify the expenses which are generally on going and the incremental amounts that may be available. The new money available will be distributed on a pro-rata basis.

The discussions followed are summarised in a memo prepared by Dr. Shizgal for the Senate Research Committee for presentation to SCAPP:

- (i) «The Committee recognises that the provisional budget is the result of making hard choices in a difficult financial situation.
- (ii) The budget does not address key issues raised in the Senate document on the Enhancement of Research at Concordia, such as the funding of research centres.
- (iii) The Enhancement of Research should appear as a line item in the Academic, Academic Services, and Administrative listings of expenditures. Otherwise, it will be difficult to determine what resources have been allocated towards meeting the recommendations set out in the Senate document on the enhancement of research at Concordia and the recommendations to be drafted by the Expert Task Force on the enhancement of university-wide research support services and facilities.
- (iv) The practice of restricting the funding of new initiatives to new monies available on an annual basis has been continued in developing the Provisional 1993-1994 Operating Budget. It is difficult to see how such monies could suffice to support major new initiatives aimed at improving academic quality, particularly given the likely reduction in our operating grant from the Province of Quebec and the need to meet our commitment to deficit reduction. A new, more global approach to freeing up funds for significant new initiatives is required.»

The complete text of Dr. Shizgal's comments on behalf of the committee to SCAPP is attached.

8. For information only:

- a. Document from Michel Brunet of MESS entitled 'Démarche à suivre en vue de la désignation d'instituts universitaires dans le secteur social'. A letter has been sent to Michel Brunet of MESS, to have further information.
- b. Copy of Memo to Dr. Rose Sheinin, re: Report from the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities.
- c. News Release: New Initiative launched for research into the integration of people with disabilities.

9. Varia

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

file:....\src\minute92.93\mar-26.093